

Application No.: 09/821,753

Docket No.: 2328-053

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 37. (*Canceled*)

38. (*Previously Presented*) The method of claim 42 wherein the rounded corner is at an intersection of a wall of the trench and a base of the trench.

39. (*Previously Presented*) The method of claim 42 wherein the rounded corner is at an intersection of a wall of the trench and a surface intersecting the wall, the surface extending generally at right angles to the wall.

40. (*Previously Presented*) The method of claim 42 wherein the gradual change includes steps having power changes no greater than about several watts.

41. (*Previously Presented*) The method of claim 40 wherein the power steps are a few milliwatts and remain at a constant power for about 1 millisecond.

42. (*Previously Presented*) A method of forming a rounded corner of a trench of a workpiece in a vacuum plasma chamber, comprising converting a gas species that

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is supplied to the chamber into an etchant plasma that is continuously applied to the workpiece while the rounded corner is being formed, gradually changing the power applied to the etchant plasma while the rounded corner is being formed, the gradual changes being such that the power does not remain constant for durations in excess of one second while the rounded corner is being formed, and, while the rounded corner is being formed, maintaining constant: (a) pressure in the chamber, (b) the flow rate of the gas species into the chamber and (c) the species flowing into the chamber.

43. *(Previously Presented)* The method of claim 42, wherein the etchant gas is the dominant gas.

44. *(Previously Presented)* The method of claim 41, wherein the etchant gas is the dominant gas.